



**United States Department of Justice  
United States Attorney's Office  
District of Minnesota**

**Rachel K. Paulose, United States Attorney**

Jeanne F. Cooney, Director of External Relations  
(612) 664-5611

# **News Release**

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## **Wayzata Woman Sentenced for Manufacturing Counterfeit Money**

Minneapolis - A Wayzata, Minnesota, woman who was convicted of making counterfeit money in her home has been sentenced for her crime. Janice M. Stepp, age 56, was sentenced on May 8, 2007, to fifteen months in federal prison for manufacturing \$129,822 in counterfeit U.S. currency. United States District Court Judge Paul A. Magnuson also ordered Stepp to make restitution to her business victims. Stepp was indicted in June of 2006 and pleaded guilty to one count of manufacturing counterfeit money in November of 2006.

The indictment returned against Stepp stated that she manufactured counterfeit \$20s, \$50s, and \$100s in Federal Reserve Notes in her Wayzata home. A state search warrant executed at Stepp's residence on March 15, 2006, resulted in the seizure of over \$123,000 in counterfeit money, a printer containing paper allegedly used to make that money, a paper cutter, and bags of scraps of counterfeit bills.

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According to John Kirkwood, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Secret Service, Minneapolis Field Office, "This counterfeit production operation and seizure represents one of the largest single seizures in Minnesota in recent years. The Wayzata Police Department should be commended for its quick response and thorough investigation of this matter. The efforts of the officers prevented a significant amount of counterfeit currency from getting into circulation."

This case was the result of an investigation by the U.S. Secret Service and the Wayzata Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Tricia Tingle is prosecuting the case.

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